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GUNTRY

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DATE DISTR. 20 JAN 50

SUBJECT

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Soviet Commercial Contacts in Thelland

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A

DATE OF INFO. June-August 1949

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X

About 1 June 1949, many prominent Chinese merchants in Bangkok received a letter signed by Soviet trade representative A. A. Panteleimonov*. In the letter, Panteleimonov stated that he was interested in demonstrating samples of goods from the USSR; such as nails, utensils, irons, textiles, sugar, and other commodities. Panteleimonov further stated that he was interested in individual consultations with the merchants on the many general problems connected with business in Thailand. During the interviews, the Soviet representative ** discussed general business conditions and problems, points of view, and asked for data and statistics concerning certain types of goods on the Thai market. The Chinese merchants felt

that it was shrewd of the Russians to come to them for trade information, rather than to accept Thai Government trade statistics, which the merchants

- The merchants, on the whole, were impressed with "quotation, discount, and quality" of the Soviet goods. The main concern of the merchents was with the manner of importing Soviet goods to Thailand and the length of time for delivery, since there is no regular direct shipping between the USSR and Theiland. The Russians stated that, because of transportation problems, goods ordered must total 3,000 tons or over; furthermore, the purchaser must make his own shipping arrangements for bringing the goods to Thailand. Little trade appears to have developed between Thailand and the USSR as a result of the aforementioned meetings ****
- Those Chinese merchants who have established relations with the Russians are utilizing a third party to make the contact. The following Chinese merchants have had business relations with the Russians in Thailand:

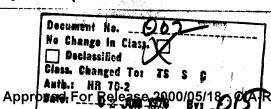
Hieb Hong Hok, 288 Prapachai Road, Bangkok.

Eib Yong, 288 Prapachai Road, Bangkok.

believe are probably unreliable,

Oung Song Kid, of Song Kid Co., Ltd., Penang and Phuket. Oung, a rich Fukien merchant, agreed to supply the Russians with 10,000 tons of raw sheet rubber; however, he was unable to fill the order.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A

- 2 -

- Kok Hua Co., Ltd., 206-208 Son wat Road, Bangkok. About 1 August 1949, through Eib Yong (listed above).**** the Kok Hua Co. made a contract with the Soviet representatives to export 1,000 tons of Man-Sam-Pa-Lang flour*****. This flour was located at Hok Hua, Mitsubishi, and Phiyathai wharfs at the southern section of Charoern Krung Road, Bangkok.
- Eib Hieng Co., Nai Lert Building, Cremo Bread Agency, Bangkok. In August 1949, this company began buying rice flakes in large quantities, reportedly for the Eussians.
- 4. In August 1949, the price of coconut oil was somowhat higher in the Bangkok market due to the fulfillment of a contract between Chinese merchants and the Russians.
- 5. Most Soviet business***** is being handled through Singapore. While Bangkok may serve as a center for the direction of purchasing, the materials purchased are mainly in Singapore and the deals take place in the Singapore market. 25X1A

Comment. Panteleimonov as Managing Director of Ekaportkhleb in Bangkok.

- 26X1A Comment. It is not known whether the Soviet representative who actually contacted the merchants was Panteleimonov or some one else.
- 25X1X Comment. The Soviets will not allow any special advantages in business to any except their own firms, such as Ander Co.
- 25X1A****

 Comment: It is not known whether Eib Yong represented Kok

 Hua Co., the Russians, or whether he was the intermediary between
 the two parties:
- 25X1X ******

 Comment. Ma-Sam-Pa-Tang flour is produced in Chonburi and Siricha districts and is sometimes called "Sinmese potatoes".

 It may be derived from arrow root.
 - 25X1A Comment The meaning of the word "business" is not Reportedly, Soviet trade in Singapore has been limited to the purchase of rubber.
 - 25X1A Comment: All figures for amounts of commodities are questionable.

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